



# Tempe Public Art

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**Design team artist:**  
**Thomas Strich**

**Landscape Architect:**

**Ruben Valenzuela**

**Architect: Virginia Senior**

*Windows of Dialectic Views, 2009*

Steel, concrete, fiberglass,  
recycled materials and river rock

**Location:** Tempe Town Lake  
South Bank near Priest Drive

**Description:** *Windows of Dialectic Views* infuses public art into the western segment of the Rio Salado South Bank path. The design team integrated sculptures and architectural structures with the landscape design along the path and its nodes. The sculptural windows focus on views of mountain parks and buttes. At the central node, a large window sculpture represents the synthesis of the organic and the structured. The node is framed by an allée of sky windows mounted on old street signal mast arms. The shade structures at two of the nodes, created from translucent fiberglass and steel, were inspired by the curved roof of the former Tempe Art Center, a past feature of Tempe Beach Park. The sculptural seats reference rock outcroppings in the riverbed and include river rock medallions, while the flowing shape of the path with inspired by Hohokam water patterns.

**Artist biography:** Thomas Strich was born and raised in California. He received a double B.A. degree in Studio Art and Art Theory from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and received an M.F.A. degree in sculpture from Arizona State University. Strich has been an Arizona-based artist since 1990. Since 1995 he has been applying his skills as a mixed media artist and photographer toward urban planning processes and public art projects. In his studio work, Strich has explored the mentality and perception that underscores the relationships humans develop with their natural environment. He has completed public art and private development projects for Tempe, Phoenix, and Queen Creek.

**Funding:** This project was funded through City of Tempe Transit Capital Improvement Project funds.